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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, August 24, 2018, at 11 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2018

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DEAN HELLER, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, thank You for loving us throughout the seasons of our lives. Help us to not take Your love and grace for granted. Lord, empower us to plan to spend devotional time with You each day. Give us a hunger and thirst for Your amazing presence. May we also make time to experience life's wonders, pausing to consider the glory of a sunrise or to pluck a rose or to say "I love you."

Strengthen our Senators for today's issues. May they labor for You. Give them an awareness of their accountability to You for the decisions they make. Quiet the tempest within, and give them Your peace.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DEAN HELLER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 23, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DEAN HELLER, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. HELLER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Lynn A. Johnson, of Colo-

rado, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

WORK SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this continues to be a productive August here in the Senate. We convened this month because too much of the American people's business remained outstanding—too many legislative priorities unfinished, too many non-controversial, completely qualified nominees left languishing on the Executive Calendar due to partisan obstruction and delays.

Coming back to work this August was not a conventional decision, but of course there is nothing conventional about the historic level of obstruction Senate Democrats have systematically visited upon this administration's nominees, even for critical positions. President Trump's nominees have already been subjected to more than four times—four times—as many cloture votes as the nominees of his six most recent predecessors combined—combined—in their first 2 years. There were 24 cloture votes on nominations in the first 2 years of Presidents Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush, and Obama—all put together, 24 times did the majority leader have to file cloture on a nomination in the first 2 years—and for President Trump, 110 in a year and a half and counting. So we returned to work to pass more legislation and to confirm more nominees. That is

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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just what we have done, and it is just what we will continue to do.

This week, we will conclude the hugely important appropriations bills before us. After that, we will turn to the 17 nominees on whom I filed cloture yesterday. There are a variety of impressive men and women whom the President has asked to serve both in the judiciary and in the executive branch. None are particularly controversial. All are qualified. No more obstruction. No more delays. It is time to confirm them all, and the Senate will continue to work right through August until every single one of them is confirmed.

This week, we have been considering appropriations measures to fund the Department of Defense and the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. These bills will make Americans stronger overseas and right here at home. They attend to national priorities like providing the resources needed to better prepare our forces for combat and to deter our enemies. The funds meet many of the requirements of our military commanders, equipping and training units to meet and overcome the most dangerous of emerging global threats. As ever, our obligation to this All-Volunteer Force is to provide adequate training, weaponry, and skills so that Americans always prevail on the battlefield.

Here at home, this bill marshals new resources for our national battle with drug abuse and opioid addiction and gives our National Institutes of Health the resources to stay on offense against everything from Alzheimer's to infectious diseases.

With private sector surveys showing that hiring skilled workers is a top challenge for American business, this legislation continues and expands our investments in apprenticeship programs, in training and employment grants to States, and in support for dislocated workers.

These are national efforts, so how do they translate locally? Every Senator can describe how this legislation will help families and communities in their home State.

In my home State of Kentucky, we are looking forward to increased funding for Pell grants and the millions we have secured to support work colleges, like Berea College and Alice Lloyd College.

Kentuckians will benefit from new funding for community health centers to support patients struggling with addiction and from a new CDC initiative that will prioritize funding for counties most at risk for outbreaks of HIV and hepatitis due to injection drug use.

Of course, the Department of Defense funding touches every single community that proudly calls itself home to the men and women of our armed services. Kentuckians in uniform and their families will enjoy their well-earned pay raise—the highest in nearly a decade—which this bill provides to all American servicemembers, and the

communities that revolve around Fort Campbell, Fort Knox, the Blue Grass Army Depot, and the Kentucky National Guard can count on the funding they need to keep their important operations going. They are national priorities, of course, but all have local impacts.

I am proud of what these bills contain and how the Senate has crafted them. I want to particularly thank Chairman SHELBY and Senator LEAHY once more. I look forward to voting to pass these measures very soon.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. President, on a final matter, this week Judge Brett Kavanaugh has continued meeting with Members of the Senate. So far, I believe the only Senators who have met with this nominee and then had negative things to say about him were Democrats who had already announced beforehand they were going to oppose him.

I suspect that with Judge Kavanaugh you have to go in with a closed mind in order to come away unimpressed. This man has served with distinction for more than a decade on what many scholars consider the second highest court in our Nation—the DC Circuit. His legal brilliance and his fair, open-minded approach have won him vocal praise from those in the know all across the political spectrum.

Here is one quote:

I think it's very hard for anyone who's worked with him, appeared before him to, frankly, say a bad word about him. I mean, this is an incredibly brilliant, careful person . . . legendary for his preparation.

That is Neal Katyal, who served as Solicitor General to President Barack Obama, describing Judge Kavanaugh.

Here is another quote, from former Obama Solicitor General Donald Verrilli:

Judge Kavanaugh is a brilliant jurist . . . he carries out all phases of his responsibilities as a judge in a way you'd want, in an exemplary way.

He is, Mr. Verrilli explained, “a distinguished jurist by any measure.”

This is what it sounds like when legal experts who happen to be on the political left make a fair, unbiased assessment of this impressive, mainstream nominee.

In contrast, about one-third of the entire Democratic caucus stood up the first week—the first week—after Judge Kavanaugh was announced to declare they had seen enough—seen enough—and were dead-set against confirming him. One Democrat, a member of the Judiciary Committee, in fact, announced that she would oppose whomever—whomever—the President selected before Judge Kavanaugh was even nominated, and the ink was barely dry on Judge Kavanaugh's nomination when my friend the Democratic leader said that he would oppose it with “everything I've got.”

All this reflexive opposition occurred well before there was any mention of documents or any of the other reasons our colleagues have come up with to delay the hearing.

Remember, Judge Kavanaugh has written over 300 opinions from the bench, and the Judiciary Committee has already received more than twice as many pages of documents pertaining to this nominee than for any other Supreme Court nominee in American history—more than 400,000 pages and counting.

So however you slice it, every Senator will be historically well-equipped to provide advice and consent on the President's nominee. No shifting rationales or partisan complaints can mask one simple fact: Everyone who is willing to give this nominee a fair hearing will be able to do precisely that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP PRESIDENCY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, by any account, this has been a momentous week in the history of the Trump Presidency and the history of Presidencies in general. President Trump's former campaign manager was convicted on eight counts and still has another trial to go. The President's former personal attorney—his lifelong compadre for so long—pled guilty to multiple violations of bank fraud and campaign finance violations, implicating the President of the United States himself in one of those crimes. Let me repeat that. President Trump was named as an unindicted coconspirator in a Federal crime.

What did we hear from our Republican friends on the Hill? Was this the moment when Republican leaders finally stood up and said “enough”? Amazingly, apparently not. Apparently, my Republican colleagues cannot rouse themselves to offer even a word of criticism for a President now implicated in a Federal crime; a President who casually tosses around the idea of pardoning his convicted former campaign chairman; a President who speaks favorably about that convicted felon because he didn't break, while disparaging a former confidant for collaborating with law enforcement. It sounds like a scene out of the “Godfather.”

Imagine if President Obama's campaign manager was convicted of several serious Federal crimes. Do you think my Republican friends would give circumspect quotes to reporters, or do you think they would be beside me on the floor beside themselves? The answer is obvious. Yet, when it comes to a President of their own party, there is hardly a word of criticism or censure from our Republican friends.

At some point, after the “Access Hollywood” tape, after Charlottesville, after the Helsinki summit, and now after these most recent revelations, the broad failure of the Republican Party in Congress to condemn the President’s behavior and what that behavior is doing to the American character becomes a form of complicity.

Without strong voices in his party to tell him when he goes too far, the Republicans have become complicit in bringing down the character of the United States, which is probably the best thing we have going for us. The President keeps destroying, hurting, and gnawing at that character with amazing narcissism, with total ego, with bullying, and with misstatements of truth after truth. Our Republican friends—the only ones who can really stop him; we can’t—just shrug their shoulders. President Trump thinks he can keep testing the boundaries, and our Republican friends say: Go right ahead. We are not going to stop you. We are going to be quiet. We are going to be silent.

It seems that Republican Party leaders have made the ultimate Faustian bargain: forgoing their duty to the Constitution and the country in exchange for a corporate tax cut and stacking the courts. They are willing to ignore the corruption and lawbreaking so long as they have someone in the White House to sign their tax cuts, to gut healthcare, which they despise, and to nominate conservative ideologues to the bench.

The mantra of the Republican majority in the 115th Congress is “put your head in the sand.” The symbol of the Republican Party—the elephant—is being replaced with the ostrich, the bird that puts its head in the sand when trouble occurs. They must tell themselves: Put your head in the sand; we want to pass a corporate tax cut. Put your head in the sand; we want to eviscerate Obama’s healthcare law, even if it means raising costs on working Americans. Put your head in the sand like an ostrich; we want a conservative majority on the Supreme Court. If you ask me, the price of that Faustian bargain has already become too steep.

I have real admiration for the “Never Trumpers,” hard-right conservatives who hardly agree with me on anything, but they have had the courage to say that the character of America, which Donald Trump day by day is destroying, is more important than a tax cut or a nominee to the Supreme Court because if our character goes away, we won’t have much left.

We all know what Donald Trump did. When I saw the majority leader in the House talk on FOX News, I said to myself, he must believe that Trump did what it is alleged he did—paid dollars to someone to avoid her telling what happened between her and him. Everyone knows that is true. No one doubts it is true. The President knows it is true, I am sure. Yet, the Republican os-

trich puts his head in the sand and ignores the day-by-day erosion of the American character that Donald Trump creates.

The Faustian bargain has become too steep, my Republican friends. Consideration of country and Constitution aside, if my Republican colleagues remain silent, the party will become co-conspirator in the culture of corruption that surrounds this President.

Now is the time for the Republican leaders to do what is best for their party and for their country. Sometimes it is as simple as saying “enough” to this President. It would be far better, in addition to our Republican colleagues speaking out, to pass legislation to protect the special counsel from political interference, to hold hearings on the power of the President to pardon, to pass legislation to bolster election security and to hold Russia accountable, and to use Congress’s power to investigate the serious crimes that were committed by the President’s close associates during the election. But it has to start with our Republican colleagues recognizing the moment we are in and looking back at figures like Howard Baker, who rose to the occasion in a similar situation 45 years ago. Where are the Howard Bakers? Where are our Republican colleagues who—I know they love this country, but it is either fear or expediency or something else not admirable that is making them complicit with the President in their ostrich-like silence.

It is time, my Republican friends, to quote the Scriptures, to speak truth to power.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Madam President, the recent legal developments for Mr. Manafort and Mr. Cohen shed an entirely different light on Judge Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court. It is conceivable that down the road the Supreme Court could be faced with a decision as to whether a sitting President can be subpoenaed or indicted—something the Court has not yet ruled on.

In my meeting with Judge Kavanaugh, he not only refused to answer crucial questions about whether Roe, Casey, or cases involving the ACA were correctly decided, he even refused to affirm that a President must comply with a duly issued subpoena, even in a criminal investigation that concerns vital national security.

Considering that Judge Kavanaugh has such a voluminous record on the issue of Executive authority, on which he seems to take an almost monarchical view, his refusal to say a President must comply with a subpoena should give everyone—everyone—great pause. Just as the President is implicated in criminal activity, the Senate is considering the nomination of someone to the Supreme Court who believes that sitting Presidents are virtually immune from legal jeopardy.

I understand that my Republican colleagues don’t want to delay hearings for Judge Kavanaugh despite this over-

whelmingly good reason to do so, made even more piquant by yesterday’s events with Mr. Cohen and Mr. Manafort. I still believe that Chairman GRASSLEY and Leader MCCONNELL should consider—given the President’s legal trouble, given the fact that the majority of the Senate has not yet had a chance to review or even access Judge Kavanaugh’s full records and what he might feel about Executive power, I feel that we should hit pause on the hearing. It makes logical sense.

Senators should be wary of the unknowns in Judge Kavanaugh’s hidden record. He has been a hard-right Republican warrior for much of his career before he got on the bench. When he got on the bench, he was still a hard-right warrior in the decisions he made. President Trump didn’t vet him any better than he vetted Scott Pruitt, Tom Price, or any of the other catastrophic appointments he made to the Cabinet. It will be a rude awakening for Senators to find out after a confirmation vote that the nominee had a number of issues in his past that the Senate did not properly consider.

I repeat my plea. We should delay Judge Kavanaugh’s hearing at the very minimum until the full record of everything he has said and done on Executive authority is made public.

GUNS FOR TEACHERS IN THE CLASSROOM

Finally, Madam President, in this administration, you can’t believe what goes on. It is so far away from what the American people believe and feel. It is so dominated by a small, powerful group on the hard right—in this case, the gun lobby.

What did Secretary DeVos say last night? The Times reported that Betsy DeVos and the Trump administration have a plan to allow States and school districts to use Federal funds that were intended to help high-poverty schools provide things like computer science, civics, and mental health treatment to instead buy guns for teachers. Is that amazing? Unbelievable.

Teachers don’t want guns. They know it will make them a target if, God forbid, a shooter comes into the school. And now DeVos wants to take Federal funds away from instruction so the school district can buy guns for teachers? What is that all about? What recklessness. What absurdity. Everyone knows arming teachers will not make our schools or children safer. The teachers themselves know it. That is why Congress, Democrats and Republicans, explicitly prohibited the use of DHS grants to purchase weapons or ammunition for schools. We just did that, Democrats and Republicans together. That is why, earlier this year, Congress explicitly prohibited the use of grants in the STOP School Violence Act for firearms purchases. Bringing more guns in our schools is not the answer at all.

I can’t believe that Ms. DeVos, the Secretary of Education, with the kinds of reckless views that she has exhibited, so antithetical to safety in

schools, so antithetical to good public education—she is highly unpopular with the American people throughout the country, not just in the blue States. In some of the reddest States, public education is so important, that her kowtowing to private education hurts millions of rural American school children.

The Trump administration, once again, this time led again by Secretary DeVos, has concocted a plan to twist the law and cannibalize funding from high poverty schools to advance the NRA's dream policy. That is all it is. The Trump administration is giving the keys to the special interests, this time the NRA.

Until President Trump breaks the NRA's stranglehold on the Republican Party—he has occasionally talked about it, but then fearful, retreated from the things he said—meaningful gun safety reform in this country will continue to be subverted by radical and dangerous ideas from the NRA, like arming teachers.

This announcement occurs as we wrap up Labor-HHS, the appropriations bill. We have a bipartisan agreement to fund the title IV grant program at \$1.2 billion, the most since its inception. But this news about Secretary DeVos's plans chills our celebration.

I am calling on my colleagues to reaffirm that we do not believe more guns in schools will create safe, effective learning environments and that we certainly shouldn't use Federal dollars, take them away from instruction so we can arm teachers. Let's spike this hair-brained idea before it gets off the ground.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

HEALTHCARE RESEARCH

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, we will vote in a few minutes to move forward with the Defense, Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill.

That probably sounds like a pretty unusual combination, even though I think most voters, most taxpayers, understand that to get this work done in the timeframe we have to do it, we generally need to bring more than one topic together on the floor at the same time. But why Defense, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education?

Well, first of all, that is 62 percent of all the spending. If we can get this bill passed today, get a conference with the House, get this single bill on the President's desk by the end of the fiscal year, we will have funded that much of the government in a timely way for the first time in a decade.

If we can add the other bills to it that the House and Senate have passed, we will have 90 percent of the spending on the President's desk and in place before the spending year starts.

It doesn't sound as if that would be a very big accomplishment, but by the standards of the last decade, it would be an incredible accomplishment to bring these bills to the floor, to allow

them to be debated, to allow them to be amended. We have a managers' package that would include a number of the 60 or so proposed amendments just on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education part of the bill. I don't know how that is exactly going to work out today, but I do know we can take that managers' package to the conference and say: This is what we agreed to as a managers' package. Whether we officially are able to add it or not, every bit of it is germane to the bill, germane, in my view, to what could happen in conference.

I would also point out that, for decades, the priority of my side of the aisle, of our side of the aisle, has been that defending the country first is the No. 1 priority.

One of the top priorities on the other side of the aisle has been: Well, let's take the biggest of the nondefense bills and be sure we are equally prioritizing it.

So in my view, for perhaps the first time this has ever happened, the leaders have decided to bring these two top priorities to the floor together and let voters, Democrats and Republicans, voters on the Senate floor, decide how they want to move forward with those bills.

Let me just talk for a few minutes about one of the items in our bill—the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee, which you and I serve on—and that would be healthcare research, specifically Alzheimer's and how it relates to that research.

First of all, for a dozen years, ending 4 years ago, there had not been a penny of increase in health research.

When I became chairman of this committee 4 years ago, Senator MURRAY and I began to work on reprioritizing healthcare research, with Democrats and Republicans getting together to figure out what we needed to do. For at least the first couple of years, what we needed to do was eliminate other programs and combine other programs and make tough choices to be sure that health research was a priority.

When we pass this bill today, we will have increased health research spending in a budget that for 2 years had no growth at all and has had some growth in the last 2, but by 30 percent—30 percent—from \$30 billion a year to \$39 billion a year at a time when we know more about the human genome, we know more about what makes each of us different from all the rest of us than we have before.

What are we beginning to see? We are seeing things in immunotherapy in cancer; we are seeing things in brain research. We are not seeing the kinds of results we want to see yet in Alzheimer's, but we are moving in that direction.

Every hour, Alzheimer's disease costs taxpayers at least \$21 million—every single hour. Someone in the United States is developing Alzheimer's every 65 seconds. We are spending somewhere

in the neighborhood of 277 billion tax dollars a year on Alzheimer's and dementia-related care.

I have just given three numbers. It is hard to talk about appropriating without giving numbers. Maybe numbers are not the most riveting thing, particularly when you start talking about millions or billions or even trillions. What does that really mean?

That means we are spending basically an amount equal to half of the defense budget on Alzheimer's and dementia-related care. That will have an overwhelming impact if we don't do something differently than we are doing right now, just because of the projected long life and demographics of the country. In 2050, which is 32 years from now, we will be spending, in today's dollars, \$1.1 trillion on Alzheimer's and dementia care—\$1.1 trillion. One point one anything—who knows? Let's go back to defense again. That is twice the defense budget of last year—twice the defense budget.

I don't really have a great grasp of what \$1.1 trillion is, but I do have a sense of what every military base everywhere in the world would be. Add to that every ship, every plane, every piece of equipment, and add to that every training dollar, and add to that every paycheck for every soldier, sailor, airman, marine, person in the National Guard, the Coast Guard, the Reserves, and you will begin to approach a pretty big number.

We would be spending more than twice that amount. If you add up all I have just talked about, taxpayer spending would be more than twice that just on Alzheimer's and dementia.

Obviously, there is a huge taxpayer need to find a solution here. There is an even bigger individual need. It is not only a devastating disease for people who have it, it is a devastating disease for the people who care about them. There is one generally used number out there that says for every tax dollar we are spending on Alzheimer's and dementia right now, we are spending two private dollars, almost never insured. These are caregivers. These are people who care about you, who give up part or all of their career and time to take care of you instead of doing what they otherwise would be doing. The person being taken care of may not have any real idea, at some point, as to what is going on, but the people taking care of them know. That is a big reason to find a solution.

If we could just delay the onset of Alzheimer's, if we could figure out how to come up with something that would slow down the onset of that disease, if we could delay the onset by an average of 5 years, we would cut that \$1.1 trillion by 42 percent—almost in half. If we could just have the average person who gets Alzheimer's get it 5 years later than they are getting Alzheimer's today, almost half, 42 percent, of that \$1.1 trillion would go away. So this is something we obviously need to prioritize.

Just 4 years ago, we were spending about \$600 million on Alzheimer's research. We were spending \$250 billion on taxpayer-related care. We were spending \$600 million—what is that? Is that one-quarter of 1 percent? We were spending \$600 million on research to try to help solve this problem that we are spending these billions of dollars on every year.

In 4 years, we have gotten that number beyond the disease goal a handful of years ago. We said: If we just could have \$2 billion for Alzheimer's research every year, we would have a better chance to find a solution.

Well, this year, we have passed the \$2 billion. We are at \$2.34 billion, but we are still spending less than 1 percent on trying to find a solution to the problem of what we are spending every year on the problem. It is an important 1 percent.

At Washington University in St. Louis—I didn't know when I started chairing this committee what great leaders they are in this research effort. I knew this was one of the top health research universities in the country. I didn't know where we were in terms of the cutting-edge on Alzheimer's, but Dr. Randy Bateman at Washington University in St. Louis is very close. He has unveiled the results of a blood test that hopefully will detect early on whether you individually are on the way to developing this problem.

Obviously that matters if we can find things that could be done to significantly slow down the advance of this disease. It is not particularly expensive to take a blood test. It is not very invasive. It gets a quick result. Now what you have to do—you have to have a CAT scan. Somebody, in an expensive process, looks at your brain and figures out if you have amyloids developing in your brain that are likely to cause this.

So early detection—Dr. Hodes at the National Institute on Aging at NIH says that one of the real reasons we can't find solutions is we cannot figure out how to get the right group to clinically test. A blood test would help with that. So we are working on that.

I see my friend Senator MARKEY is here. I would point out to him that because of the leader's time, I started talking only about 8 minutes ago and maybe have only 2 minutes right now.

If you want to use that 2 minutes before the vote—but we do have a vote—then we will figure out later, maybe, how to get back to your time. But thanks for your interest in health research. Certainly, Dr. Blumenthal, the Senator's wife, is a great advocate of this. Why don't I yield this last minute or so to Senator MARKEY; then maybe there will be other time later, but I know we have a vote scheduled in a minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARKEY. Thank you, Madam President.

I thank the Senator from Missouri for his great leadership on this issue. As he was pointing out, this issue of whether we make a continued increase in the funding for research at NIH goes right to the long-term budgetary objectives of our country.

If we do not find the cure for Alzheimer's by the time we reach the year 2050, the budget at Medicare and Medicaid for taking care of Alzheimer's patients will be equal to the defense budget of our country. Obviously, that is not sustainable. So the only way we are going to be able to deal with this issue is to find a cure.

Research is medicine's field of dreams, from which we harvest findings that give hope to families that there could be a cure for the disease that runs through their family's history. It could be Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, cancer. Whatever the disease, it is going to take funding from the NIH to match the magnitude of the challenge. That is what this bill is going to do.

Working with Chairman SHELBY and Senator LEAHY, along with Mr. BLUNT, what we are seeing is another dramatic increase. He and Senator MURRAY have worked with the chairs in order to accomplish this goal.

Ultimately, I know how important this issue is because my mother died from Alzheimer's. The funding level for Alzheimer's research has been woefully inadequate matched against the magnitude of the problem, so there has had to be a dramatic increase.

Unfortunately, from 2002 until 2007, we have just level funding at the National Institutes of Health, and that meant a cut by ultimately 20 percent in the spending capacity of NIH. So now we are making up for lost ground. The key is, it draws the most talented young people in America toward the goal of finding the cures and the breakthroughs that can ultimately give hope to families because NIH isn't just the National Institutes of Health, it is the "National Institutes of Hope"—the hope people have that the disease that runs through their family will, in fact, be cured.

That is why this budget is so important because it is going to increase the hope families have. It is going to draw more scientists toward these issues. It is going to lead to more breakthroughs because whether it be Alzheimer's or cancer or diabetes or ALS or whatever the disease is, failure is not an option. We must find the breakthroughs that are going to make a difference.

When it comes to Alzheimer's itself, when I was a boy, President Kennedy said the mission to the Moon was what we should all be focusing on. Well, in the 21st century, it is the mission to the mind. It is to try to find ways in these labyrinthian passageways of the

human brain that we can find the clues that make it possible for us to find the cure.

I thank the Senator from Missouri. I thank you, Madam President, for giving me an opportunity to extend. There is no more important issue than what we are going to be dealing with.

With that, I yield back.

Mr. BLUNT. I yield back my time as well.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3695 to Calendar No. 500, H.R. 6157, an act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Orrin G. Hatch, Jerry Moran, Lindsey Graham, Mike Crapo, Richard C. Shelby, John Thune, John Cornyn, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts, Steve Daines, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Lisa Murkowski, Roy Blunt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the amendment numbered 3695, as amended, offered by the Senator from Alabama, Mr. SHELBY, to H.R. 6157, an act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULIVAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 90, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 190 Leg.]

YEAS—90

Alexander	Capito	Crapo
Baldwin	Cardin	Cruz
Barrasso	Carper	Daines
Bennet	Casey	Donnelly
Blumenthal	Cassidy	Duckworth
Blunt	Collins	Durbin
Booker	Coons	Enzi
Boozman	Corker	Ernst
Brown	Cornyn	Feinstein
Burr	Cortez Masto	Fischer
Cantwell	Cotton	Gardner